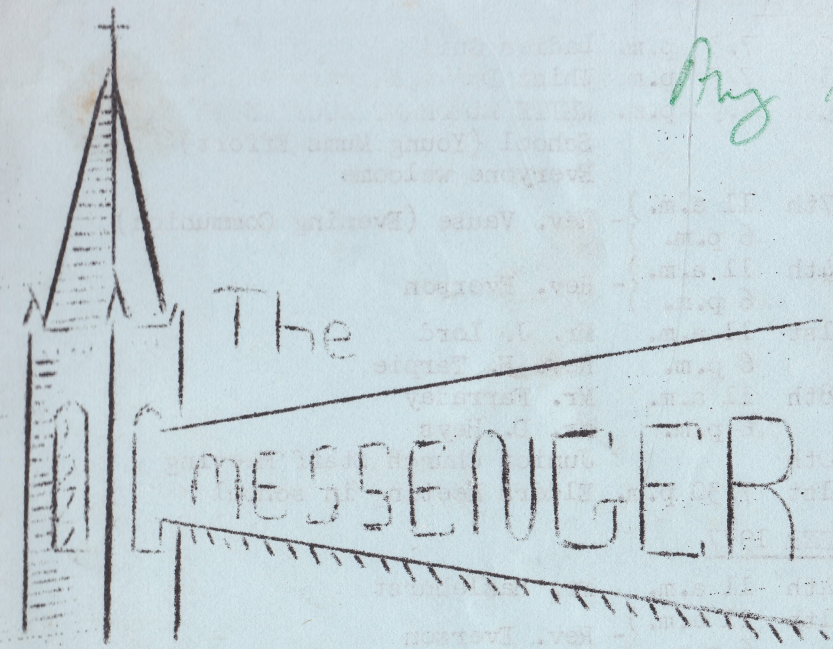
Aug 1977



THE
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH

ST STEPHEN'S

Milnrow
& Littleborough

4p

STEPHEN'S DIARY

T 1977

2nd	7.30 p.m.	Ladies Guild
3rd	7.30 p.m.	Whist Drive & every Wednesday
5th	7.30 p.m.	WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION in School (Young Mums Effort) Everyone welcome
7th	11 a.m.) 6 p.m.)	- Rev. Vause (Evening Communion)
14th	11 a.m.) 6 p.m.)	- Rev. Everson
21st	11 a.m.	Mr. J. Lord
	6 p.m.	Rev. H. Tarpie
28th	11 a.m.	Mr. Farraday
	6 p.m.	Mr. D. Heys
30th		Junior Church Staff Meeting
31st	7.30 p.m.	Elders Meeting in school

MBER 1977

4th	11 a.m.	Mr. Hazlehurst
11th	11 a.m.) 6 p.m.)	- Rev. Everson

Y CHURCH READERS

August - Luke 12: 22-34 Mr. Royle
" - Genesis 1: 24-31 Mr. Eastwood
" - Psalm 11: 1-7 Miss Hemmings
" - Deuteronomy 30: 11-20 J. Lynch
Sept. - Deuteronomy 15: 1-10 Mrs. Royle

ITE ELEPHANT AUCTION"
August, 1977 - 7.30 p.m.

anyone has any articles suitable
donate, please put on balcony.
Thank you

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

AUGUST 1977

Mon. 1st - 7.30 p.m. Junior Church Meeting
Sat 6th - 1.30 p.m. Picnic (TODMORDEN PARK)
Meet Littleborough Station
Sun. 7th - 10.30 a.m. Mr. J. Lord
Tue. 9th - 6.30 p.m. LADIES GUILD TRIP (NOTE THE TIME LADIES.)
Sun. 14th - 10.30 a.m. Mrs. E. Richardson
6 p.m. Mr. J. Lord (Communion)
Tue. 16th - 7.30 p.m. Ladies Guild - Miss Jones
Sun. 21st - 10.30 a.m. Councillor Edwards
Tue. 23rd - 7.30 p.m. Coffee Evening - Drapery Stall - Christmas Cards & Gifts
Sun. 28th - 10.30 a.m. Mr. D. Jones (Family Communion)

SEPTEMBER 1977

Sun. 4th - CHURCH CLOSED

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

5th - David Armitage 6th - Julie Butterworth
9th - Susan Butterworth 25th - Martin Fielden
29th - Stephanie Mills
6th September - Glyn Simpson

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when Church Services and activities are at the mercy of that national institution; the annual holiday. Each week from June to September, it seems, a sizeable proportion of one's congregation is "on holiday" - and good luck to them!

It would come as something of a shock to many of our young people to realise that holidays are a fairly modern invention. Until recent years they were the privilege of the rich; for most people it was just the odd day here and there, granted as holy-days for religious celebration. Only in post-war years has the holiday book reached the whole population.

At first sight holidays have little to do with the Bible. They just didn't have their "three weeks" annual leave in the Palestine of the days of Jesus. Probably the nearest He and His family came to a holiday was the annual visit to Jerusalem for the festival - a welcome break from everyday patterns of life.

Yet our holidays today do raise issues about which the Bible and the Christian Gospel have things to say - how we spend our time and our money, for example, our attitude to different places and people, the growth of our minds.

The key word when we are thinking about holidays is "recreation". In its proper sense it means "re-creation", and a good holiday can do just that for us. A change of scenery, meeting new people, doing different things can all lead to an enlargement of our personalities. The leisure experience can also be a learning experience.

Holidays come to an end of course. Children pack their satchels again, adults go "back to the grindstone". But if our experience has been enlarged, if there has been a genuine re-creation, it will be as people more mature and more aware of God's continuing work in everyday life that we shall return.

We shall be better fitted to start again where we left off.

Best wishes - and good holidays - to you all.

DONALD WHITEHEAD

JUNIOR CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

2nd	-	Kenneth Holden	5th	-	Gillian Rothwell
6th	-	Karen Royle	6th	-	Andrew Grayson
11th	-	Joanne Baines	12th	-	Della Clough
13th	-	Michael Rothwell	14th	-	John Lynch
14th	-	Pamela Rothwell	20th	-	Amanda Wilson
21st	-	Ian Andrew	22nd	-	Jane Medhurst

(Continued from page 9 - GARDEN PARTY)

There were lots of busy workers to be found at various stalls and side shows all trying their hardest to extract money, and they seem to have succeeded as £50 was raised during the afternoon.

Thanks must go to all who donated items of food for tea, all the helpers in the kitchen, and all who helped in any way.

Thanks also to Mrs. Baines who offered her garden in vain, and a special mention for the Young People's Department who ran side shows and turned up in force to work hard.

Thanks finally to all those who came. We hope to see you again next year ... but Heaven knows where.

WHAT IN HEAVENS NAME IS THE MATTER WTTH US?

The word "apathy" is used too often these days. It tends to be used by people who, for reasons best known to themselves, have become wildly enthusiastic about something and they cannot understand why others are not carried along by the same impulses.

Quite a lot of people are going around saying that there is a lot of "apathy" at St. Stephen's (and possibly Littleborough too), so it might be worth while looking further into the meaning of the word. The concise Oxford Dictionary tells us that it is derived from a Greek word meaning "not suffering" and its modern meaning is given as "insensibility to suffering", "passionless existence" and "indolence of mind". Surely, not even the most unking of critics could imply that we are as numb as that. Perhaps we should look for an alternative word to describe ourselves.

Roget's Thesaurus suggests the following as alternative words for "apathy":-

"half-hearted" - Well, Yes, we are
"unenthusiastic"- Thats true enough
"unambitious" - Thats very true
"unstirred" - Precisely
"uninspired" - Now there is a thought

Most members of the congregation will recognise that these words describe the prevailing attitude in our church and will even admit that they sum up our own feelings as individuals towards the Church.

This negative spirit can be accounted for partly by the ups and downs of the congregation in recent years, and partly by changes in life styles of certain families. The church has had its traumas and schisms, young families have grown up, loyal servants have grown older or gone away weary, and St. Stephen's no longer seems the same.

There is an atmosphere of gloom abroad. For the last few years we have lost about £500 per year and we have only one more £500 to lose - if that. We have no Minister and there is a widely expressed opinion that we are not going to get one; not this year or next year and, things being as they are "sometime" is the same as "never".

And yet, there is a very real potential here at St. Stephen's. Look around the church on a Sunday morning. Maybe some can remember them being packed in the aisles at anniversaries, but our congregation remains a healthy one. Our Junior Church attendances are much the same as a decade ago, despite a dramatic fall in the birth rate. There are still plenty of young adults in our midst who have so much to offer. There are still plenty of older folk still capable and willing to help in countless ways.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with this congregation that cannot be remedied.

"half-hearted" - if a job is worth doing.....
"unenthusiastic"- where is our spark?
"unambitious" - what could we attempt that we don't already do?
"unstirred" - let's start to make a real effort
"uninspired" - where can we find inspiration but in prayer and fellowship?

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Breathe on us, breath of God
Fill us with life anew
That we may love what Thou dost love
And do what Thou would'st do.

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT????????

MILNROW NEWS

WHAT'S COOKING?

Having been given inside knowledge into the esoteric secrets of the Greengrocery trade in May it was decided that the Ladies Guild should go on to have a Cookery lesson last month. Miss Winder, Home Service Advisor for North-West Gas showed us how to rustle up Coq au Vin, Savoury Slice, Sweet Fish, Mandarin Meringue Pudding and Blackcurrant Cheesecake. We trust that the five ladies who won the raffle for these scrumptious delights found them to be as enjoyable as they sound - and so, no doubt would various relatives, is that so, Mary?

The next two speakers for the Guild will be Miss Eaton-Rogerson on 2nd August and Mrs. E. Garside on the 13th September, who will both, no doubt, be busy cooking up their own special concoctions.

Incidently, the business of fixing speakers for the Guild month by month does sometimes cause a lot of hard thinking. If you know of anyone who would be willing to speak to us in 1978 will you please let Mrs. Howarth or Mrs. Clarence have their names and addresses.

Finally, may we remind you that, at the time of going to press, there are only 125 shopping days to Christmas. If you would like a catalogue for Christmas Cards and/or Gifts have a word with Mrs. Margaret Holden, 37 Cornfield Street. It may be that this year your menfolk might not volunteer to see to them, although you never can tell.

THE SHAMPOO SET

The Young People's Department spent an energetic afternoon washing cars on the Saturday after the holidays. The number of customers was rather disappointing but those who came

went away well satisfied with the work done, and refreshed with a-cuppa-while-they-waited.

The event raised £6. Well done.

GUARDED GARDEN PARTY

Honestly, the things that Church Secretaries have to put up with. Mr. Busill, no doubt like all his counterparts in other congregations, has to endure all sorts of problems partly, because "high-ups" in the URC cannot make up their minds on some matters. Last Saturday he found himself wondering what to do because of the indecisiveness of someone right at the very top.

I refer to the Almighty's lack of clear guidance on the venue of our annual Garden Party. He who rules our destinies was not willing to give a definite ruling on whether it was to be a day for gabardines or gardenias, for buckets of bouquets. Perhaps He was testing our patience or ingenuity for certainly both were required. If the Garden Party was to be at Audrey's tressels and cups had to be transported by courtesy of K.Kay & Sons and Rothwells Haulage. If it was to be in the Schoolroom everything had to be set out in time. But neither operation could be conducted on Friday night because the weather was uncertain or on Saturday morning because Mrs. Hulme's girls were doing their weekly rain or anti-rain dance.

After frantic calls to the Manchester Weather Centre who gave a firm guarantee of some sort of weather, we decided at 11 a.m. to say in the school. By 12 it was a glorious summer day with flowers swaying in the breeze. By 3 it was Autumn again with umbrellas shaking in frustration.

Nevertheless, inside the school there was a Garden Party atmosphere, thanks to a liberal display of bunting left over from the Jubilee.

(Continued on Page 5)

THOUGHTS OF AN EX-EDITOR

Ian Royle writes:-

"As Jennifer Hemmings is away on holiday in exotic places at present, she has asked me to edit this month's "Messenger" on her behalf.

"Although I volunteered readily enough at, I now realise how much more difficult Jennifer's job is in comparison with the job I was doing until the end of last year. At one stage I used to get an envelope of information from Littleborough and a similar amount from the Minister, this allowed me to do a proper editorial job, re-writing various items in my own style. Later all material from both churches came to me from Rev. Nash and I had less editorial freedom but at least an easy job. Now Jennifer has far less help. Mrs. Cullen is extremely helpful from the Littleborough end, but there is no package coming from the Minister.

"What is more, throughout my years as Editor I never got really involved with the duplicating side. Some of the time I only had a slight idea of who was involved once I had passed the stuff on to the typist. Now, after Mrs. Holden has typed it, Jennifer takes the stencils back and organises the duplication.

"I am sure Jennifer can cope with all this, but we can use her talents better if we give help in various directions. For example, by passing reports of activities and announcements of forthcoming events to her in draft form. She will also be grateful for any suitable articles, verses, prayers or snippets of information we come across. Similarly, if there is anyone able to help for a couple of hours each month with the duplicating perhaps they could have a word with Jennifer about it. As I had said so often in these columns before, this is YOUR magazine. If it ceases to be such it becomes a chore and a waste of time."

CAPTAIN GOES ASHORE

"I should like to say a very big thank you to Dena Janet and all the Pilots for the lovely gift of flowers and bath salts. Though I shall no longer be with the Pilots week by week, I shall always be interested in their progress in the future, and wish them all well. Thank you all for the loyalty you have shown me as Captain over the last few years and may you continue to learn, pray and serve all you can in the Church of Jesus Christ wherever you are".

HILARY VINCENT

And a thousand thanks to you Hilary, for the enthusiasm and hard work you have shown as Pilot Captain.

A BUSY MOTHER'S PRAYER

"Dear God,

This is the hour when in my day there comes a lull, breakfast is over, father has gone to his work, and I have helped the children into their rubbers and their coates and off to school, and now have closed the door and find myself alone. O God, go with them all; beyond my sight and voice, they live and move, but not beyond Thy care. Guide these precious ones of mine, keep them from those things that make us weak and lesser souls. God be with my dear ones all this day.

I pray in the name of Thine own Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jeses Christ.

Amen".

IN THE BOX

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the CWM through their Missionary Boxes -
Total collected - £29.25.

COFFEE EVENING & BRING & BUY SALE

TUESDAY, 23rd August, 1977

7.30 p.m. - Admission 10p.

Also preview of Christmas Cards and Gifts. Come along and order your Christmas needs, and enjoy a cup of coffee at the same time.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

The Young People's Stall are again selling Christmas Cards and Gifts, and would be pleased to supply anyone with the brochures. Will you help their funds by asking relatives and friends to purchase from the brochures. They are available from Mrs. P. Lightfoot and Mrs. R. Harrison any time AFTER the Coffee Evening on the 23rd August.

"BRAIN OF ROCHDALE 1977"

Milton U.R. Church - 1st October, 1977

Anyone wishing to take part in the above quiz, please contact Mr. Simpson as soon as possible. The organisers state that the questions are slightly below University Challenge standard !!! There will be a charge of 20p. per person to cover refreshments and head massage.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

5th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

LONDON WEEKEND 7/8/9th October 1977

The Cost £8 - including transport, food, accommodation and some events such as Service at Westminster Abbey on Sunday afternoon.

Anyone who is interested please contact Mr. Simpson as soon as possible.

TWO OLD FAVOURITES

The guest speaker at the July meeting was Mr. J. Lord, who gave a very interesting talk on his favourite humns and their origins. The Ladies were also in very good voice when singing some of the "Old Favourites".

Remember Ladies, the Annual Trip on Tuesday 9th August, at 6.30 p.m.

PICNIC

Don't forget the Annual Picnic to Todmorden Park on Saturday, 6th August, meeting at Littleborough Station at 1.30 p.m.

We hope some of our friends from MILNROW will be able to join us.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH - AUGUST 1977

DOOR STEWARDS

7th Mrs. E. Crossley Mrs. Cryer
14th Mr. E. Holt Mr. G. Simpson
21st Mr. R. Mullen Mr. D. Armitage
28th Mr. T. Fielden Mrs. Marvelley
4th Sept. CHURCH CLOSED
11th Mrs. K. Mills Miss W. Law

ELDERS

14th - 6 p.m. - Mrs. Lightfoot Mr. Simpson
28th - 10.30 a.m. - Mr. Simpson Mr. Mullen

FAMILY READERS

7th Mrs. Hammond
14th Mr. Mullen
21st Mr. Harrison
28th Mrs. Vincent
4th Sept. CHURCH CLOSED
11th Mrs. Lightfoot

COFFEE

7th Miss Law Mrs. Law
14th Mrs. Mitchell Mrs. Mullen
21st Mrs. Macormack Mrs. Butterworth
28th Mrs. Stanton Mrs. Hey
4th Sept. CHURCH CLOSED
11th Mrs. Reynolds Mrs. Lightfoot

FLOWERS

7th Mrs. Lightfoot
14th Mrs. Hill
21st Mrs. Holt Mrs. Cockcroft
28th Mrs. Dunwell Mr. Beattie
4th Sept. CHURCH CLOSED
11th Mrs. Shackleton

COLLECTIONS

May	1st	£18.04	June	5th	£19.55
	8th	£23.60		12th	£23.95
	15th	£13.65		19th	HOLIDAYS
	22nd	£20.77		26th	"
	29th	£12.85			

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW - AUGUST 1977

DOOR STEWARDS

7th - Mrs. Butterworth Mr. Mellor
14th - Mrs. Duffy Mrs. Baines
21st - Mrs. Clarence Mrs. Royle
28th - Mrs. Holden K. Holden

4th September - Holiday
11th - Mr. Harrison Mr. Ogden

COMMUNION

August 7th - Mrs. Howarth Mrs. Holden
September 11th - Mr. Wild Mr. Busill

EVENING DOOR	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST
7th Mr. Wild	Mrs. Howarth	
14th Mrs. Howarth	Mr. Clough	Mrs. Hey
21st Mr. Clough	Mr. Whitehead	Mrs. Starkie
28th Mr. Sharples	Mr. Royle	Mrs. Bradbury
11th Sept. Mr. Busill	Mr. Wild	Mrs. Hey

COFFEE

7th Mrs. Smith Mrs. Buckley
14th Mrs. Busill Miss Tither
21st Mrs. Whitehead Mrs. Greenhalgh
28th Mrs. Holland Mrs. Jackson
4th Sept. NO COFFEE
11th Miss Wood Mrs. Andrew

FLOWERS

7th Mrs. E. MacDermott Mrs. C. Wilkinson
14th Mrs. E. Staff
21st Mrs. A. Collins Mrs. R. Sandham
28th Mrs. Glynn
4th Sept. Miss J. Reed

MINISTER:

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CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW.

Mr.A. Busill,
3, Ladyhouse Close
Milnrow

LITTLEBOROUGH.

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